THE WOMAN'S

DREADNOUGHT

Published by the WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

Vol. IV.—No. 9 SATURDAY, MAY 26th, 1917 Price One Penny

POISONING THE POOR. By P. J. Dollan

Last week the news that our Scottish contributor had been arrested under the Military Service Act came too late for publication. This week we are glad to print his notes again. Councillor Dollan is the only Glasgow Councillor to be refused exemption: he would have been free had he not pleaded a Conscientious Objection. The Tribunal has laid it down that he may not take up work of national importance within 50 miles of Glasgow. This stipulation is, of course, due to the political bias of its members, who desire to stop his work as a City Councillor.

The crazy people who are running the food economy stunt have broken out in a new turn, which is the persuasion of the common people to eat tuberculous meat that hitherto has been condemned and destroyed as unfit for human food. Now, however, many wealthy and extravagant people, animated by the patriotic urge, have become convinced that the poor can help to beat the Germans by eating diseased meat; and, so the cry goes forth to save the tuberculous carcase for the lowly tenth. True, the poor may get tuberculosis in the process, but what does that matter if, by eating cemeteries of germs such as tuberculous steaks, they assist to exterminate the Huns. Every humble victim of this new form of national miserliness may die happy, knowing that his sacrifice has enabled one patriot to have a decent meal of decent meat.

The proposal to make tuberculous meat available for the poor comes from the Local Government Board, and is being boomed by the extravagant economists as something that might be taken up by Scottish Town Councils, which, if they care, are empowered to become municipal providers of consumptive beef for the poverty-stricken and the dependants of soldiers and sailors. The soldier will get "over the top" with more celerity than usual when he knows that no matter what happens to him his children will always be assured of a meal of tuberculous meat supplied by a grateful country. The prospect is such an alluring one that the Government ought to publish it broadcast as an extra reason why the men who are more than 41 years, but under 50 years, should volunteer for the trenches. Soldiers will dance with glee when they hear of it, and pass votes of thanks to an all-wise and paternal Government. Tuberculous meat for soldiers' dependants! It is a beautiful appeal!

Unfortunately for the scheme, it is now the law that all tuberculous meat should be seized and destroyed. That law is embodied in our national legislation because of the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, which, after much inquiry, discovered that consumption among many poor people was caused by their having to eat tuberculous meat. That law is not yet repealed, but apparently it will be inoperative if Town Councils choose to ignore it, and sterilise instead of destroying tuberculous meat for the poor. The Aberdeen and Hamilton Town Councils have already decided to sterilise tuberculous meat, and the poor in these localities will soon be able to enjoy "food" which contains murdered tuberculosis germs by the hundred. It is to be cooked for them in the form of "potted meat," and will be sold at cheap prices. In Aberdeen some 60 tons of rotten food will be treated by sterilisation and sold to the workers each year. The rich, very kindly, have decided not to use the luxury, of which the poor will have a monopoly.

It is advised that Glasgow and Paisley and other towns should follow the example of Aberdeen and Hamilton. According to one expert, 200,000 tons of disease-laden carcases are destroyed in Glasgow annually, and he estimates that enough of this diseased rubbish could be saved to provide 2,000,000 meals per annum—for the poor. This proposal is advanced as a food economy, and, because, owing to the War, good meat is so scarce and dear that the workers cannot afford to eat it at present prices. The rich, it appears, can have as much good meat as they care to pay for, and will have no need to stand in the queue waiting their turn to be supplied with a slab of potted meat, plus a quantity of germs thrown in as bonus. This abstinence on the part of the rich will enable the poor to get an abundant supply of the tuberculous meat, and the latter will be thankful for the concession.

The proposal to save tuberculous meat for the poor is infamous, and worthy of the hypocritical people who howled with indignation because the Germans were alleged to extract glycerine from the bodies of their dead. Even if the allegation against the Germans is true, it is better far to extract glycerine from dead bodies than to compel healthy people to eat the diseased bodies of dead animals. Tuberculous meat for the poor gives one the idea that the British capitalists would like to destroy more than the Huns. However that may be, we have got to resist this plot to palm off diseased meat on the poor, which, if successful, will lower the standard of living of all workers and increase the ravages of disease among the poor. If meat is so scarce that tuberculous meat must be used, then let a law be passed obliging the rich to eat it, so that the good food may be economised for the workers.

When the rich are prepared to eat tuberculous meat to oblige the poor, we shall know that the millennium is in sight. Meantime, the rich are not prepared to make the sacrifice, and as the food scarcity is the result of THEIR War we should not bear the sacrifice either. The War and profiteering are the cause of our food shortage, and if we want to augment the supply of food we shall best achieve our purpose by establishing Peace. So long as we are prepared to eat tuberculous meat the War will continue, for people who will submit to that indignity are not ready for Peace. The people, thank heaven, are not yet so subdued that they will be content with the tuberculous crumbs which fall from the tables of the gluttonous disciples of Dives in this country!

FOOD

The Food Controller does little beside threaten to ration us. In the House of Lords on May 17th he said that the voluntary campaign had brought about a decrease in the consumption of foodstuffs. Rubbish! It is the high prices which have done that. The rich are eating as much as is good for them: the poor are being starved. Devonport must go!

* * * *

In Lisbon the food shortage has led to rioting in which 22 people were killed and 300 wounded.

Opening the Burston Strike School

W.S.F. Annual Conference

The Conference, which is being held at the Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E., on Whit-Sunday, April 27th, at 3 p.m., and Whit-Monday, April 28th, at 3 p.m., is open to all members on presentation of membership card, but only accredited delegates may speak and vote.

LIBRARY, MEMORIAL HALL, Farringdon Street, E.C. To-day, Saturday, 8 to 11 p.m., Social and Dance. Special attractions. International Pageant, Songs, Monologue by Miss Ethel Warwick, Violin Solo by M. Soermus, Westminster Choristers, Dances by Joan Cheney, Speech by Sylvia Pankhurst, Dancing 9.30 to 11. Literature. Refreshments. Tickets, including tax, 1s. 2d. at the door.

BOW WOMEN'S HALL, 400 Old Ford Road, Sunday 27th, 3 p.m., Annual Conference first session; Monday, 3 p.m., second session. CHANDOS HALL, 21a Maiden Lane Public Meeting, Sunday 27th, 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Despard, Mr. Alex. Gossip. Chair: Mrs. Bouvier. Admission free. All are welcome.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE: KING'S BENCH DIVISION.

KNIGHT AND COLE LIMITED v. THE BLACKFRIARS PRESS LIMITED AND MISS SYLVIA PANKHURST.

APOLOGY.

To Messrs. Knight and Cole Ltd., Radsworth Street, Finsbury, E.C., and Cuba Street, Millwall, E.

Sirs,—You have commenced an action claiming damages for libel against us respectively as the printers and publishers and the registered proprietor of a weekly publication known as the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT in respect of an article which appeared in the edition of that paper dated the 18th November, 1916, in the terms set out below:—

"ANOTHER EAST LONDON STRIKE."

"The women workers employed by Knight's Projectile Factory and Cole, Cuba Street, Millwall, struck work in defence of their Manager. Their hours were from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., but he reduced them to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the same time increasing the output from 2000 slings to 6000 per day. The Manager and some of the foremen were bullied by one of the Directors. They objected and were dismissed, whereupon 200 women and girl workers struck. The workers had several grievances of their own. They are paid 11½d. for making a sling which at the very least takes 2¼ hours to make. Workers cannot keep at top speed all day, moreover, they are kept waiting for more work from time to time and sometimes have to wait all day for a mechanic to attend to their machine if anything goes wrong. There is only one mechanic to 200 machines. When advertising for workers the firm offers a War Bonus, but none is paid. The workers are asking for an increase of 1s. 3d. per dozen."

We now confess that such article was written and allowed to appear under an entire misapprehension as to the facts. We hereby unreservedly withdraw every word in such article which in any way reflects upon your Company its directors or management. We admit that there never was any foundation for any of the charges which we made. We deeply regret that we ever made them, and we tender you our sincere apologies therefor. We have to-day paid to your solicitors all the costs that have been incurred in the action which you have commenced against us, and as directed by you, have made a contribution of 25 guineas to the British Red Cross Fund. We agree to publish this apology on the front pages of the whole of the next two editions of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT, and consent to your inserting it in "The Times" at our expense.—Yours faithfully,

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST,
W. F. MOSS
(For the Blackfriars Press Ltd.).

THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Editor: SYLVIA PANKHURST.

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AGENTS:

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Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH & SONS & Messrs. WILLING, and all Newsagents.

All business communications should be sent to the MANAGER, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E

Vol. IV. No. 9 Sat., May 26th, 1917

A POGROM IN LONDON

The great Whitechapel and Commercial Roads run through the heart of the London Jewish and immigrant quarter, which lies between them and on either hand. Russians, Roumanians, Armenians, peoples of all oppressed nationalities live here, Jews forming the majority, for Jews, the people who have no country, are always most cruelly oppressed by tyrannical Governments.

Under the grey skies of this northern city the people of the East still cling to the gay, rich colours they knew in lands where the sun pours from the cloudless blue unhindered by smoke or mist. In the shops of the Whitechapel Road are vivid magenta and emerald coloured blouses in a style quite other than that which obtains where British workers go shopping in Poplar or in Bow. On the stalls of the open markets are gorgeous pine pattern stuffs, exceedingly low in price. A man passes by with a silk embroidered bed-quilt over his shoulder: its brilliant magenta-pink and ultra-marine-blue flash down the dingy street. Types of all primitive peoples may be seen here. Old women fruit-sellers, who might have stepped from a picture of the Rialto by Carpaccio or Bellini, or who might have sat with their wares by the road-side watching Jesus on his way to work in Joseph's shop. One sees old ladies with wigs of stiff brown hair, relics of the head coverings which were once *de rigueur* for Jewish matrons.

It is a hive of industry. Almost every house has its tailoring, cap-making, fur-dressing, watch-making, millinery or other business. Behind the houses, erected in what were once their gardens, are further workrooms, where girls are bending over sewing machines, and tailors with long beards and black skull caps are sitting cross-legged at their work.

The teeming human population is packed away in any spaces not occupied by the industries from which they live. They are huddled closely together in block dwellings where trades also are carried on; in houses built for a single family which now shelter several families and branches of industry; and in tiny hovels built in back courts and alleys with high walls barring out the sunlight, and passages between the buildings sometimes barely three feet wide.

Everywhere is careful thrift and busy labour. Behind the tobacconist's counter the mother and daughter are making cigarettes: the daughter, with the pile of fragrant golden shreds before her, rolls them, the mother cuts the ends with a pair of curved clippers. In the tailor's shop the husband and wife leave their work to serve the customer, and the wife finds time also to prepare appetising dishes from cheap ingredients, according to the elaborate rites of the Jewish faith. No need for a call to war service to make workers of such women!

To the smoke and squalor and de-vitalising atmosphere of this commercial city, whose ground landlords exploit alike the native and the immigrant population, these Eastern peoples have brought with them the stores of energy possessed by those whose forefathers have lived a simple life. This energy may ebb from their city-bred descendants, but it is present. One sees evidences of it in that most miserable of alleys which is built close up to the high wall of the railway, so that the rooms of the houses there never see the full light of day. The street borders upon the foreign quarter: its inhabitants are mainly British and deeply sunk in poverty, unfortunate people who can afford to live in no better place. All is drab and hopeless; cracked windows with dingy rags for curtains, weary, ill-clad women, pale and thin-legged children. One house stands out from the all-prevailing squalor: on its window-sills are wooden tubs painted bright green in which flowers are growing. Jewish immigrants live there: they earn perhaps no more money than their British neighbours, but they have health and energy; whilst the fathers and mothers of the British families in the street are casual workers in poor health, people who are breaking down in the ruthless struggle for existence. But such contrasts one also sees amongst our native population: contrasts springing from similar causes.

For the most part the Eastern immigrants are skilled in many handicrafts, not spoiled by long contact with highly sub-divided modern industrial processes in which the workers are merely feeders of machines, and they have taught their children to be tradesmen.

"They take your work" politicians with special ends to serve cry to the British people, and the despairing toilers in times of unemployment take up the tale: "They take our work." In our own households we understand that the daughter who is most active in cooking and cleaning, and the son who is most willing to turn his hand to carpentering or boot making in his leisure hours are they who are most helpful to the entire family. We should none of us be so foolish as to complain that they were taking work away from their sisters and brothers. Under Socialism, as to-day in our homes, we all shall benefit from the ready service of those who love work for its own sake. Their efforts, undeflected by the private capitalist, will go directly to increase the common stock in which all will share, and to raise the common average of necessaries and adornments. Even under the present capitalist system War has made plainer than ever before the value of labour, because the withdrawal of men to fight and of men and women to make instruments of slaughter has increased the importance of every productive pair of hands. We lack hands to cultivate the soil, to build ships to replace those which are being destroyed so wantonly from day to day, and to carry on all forms of industry. And yet some men and women would clear out that hive of industry in East London. What farmer would be so foolish as to smoke out his hive of honey bees, leaving untouched the wasps' nest in his orchard. Yet we may liken the East End, with its teeming population of British and foreign workers, to a hive of bees and the West End rich, who, in the main, live merely upon the work of others, to the wasps that eat the farmer's apples.

The British people long read with horror of the Russian anti-Semitic pogroms, but now, alas, we have had a pogrom of our own, and, as in Russia under the Czar's dominion, our British pogrom was carried out by the police.

On Friday night strange things took place in Whitechapel. Two young milliners, Misses R. and A. C——, who had been to the Imperial Cinema at the King's Hall, Commercial Road, came out to find themselves in the midst of a throng of people, who were being hustled and pushed this way and that, by masses of police and some Australian soldiers. A number of motor lorries filled with men and boys was drawn up in the road. The girls saw a lad pause, as if in surprise, to look into one of the lorries, and then saw him seized by police and bundled in. The police were catching at any men they saw and pushing them roughly into a billiard club next door to the picture palace. The girls walked on: police seemed to be everywhere, and just past New Road they saw the police dragging men out of a restaurant. A police inspector roughly pushed Miss R. C——. "Oh, don't push!" she protested, whereat he struck her on the face, bruising her at the side of the eye.

"You swine, to hit my sister!" cried Miss A. C——, whereat the Inspector struck her to the ground. "Charge them!" he called to a constable, and the girls were dragged off to Lemon Street Police Station, which was thronged with men and boys. There the girls were searched and put in a cell lighted only by a grating. At 11.45 p.m. they begged the woman searcher to tell their parents where they were, and again when they were charged at 12.15 or 12.30 they pleaded with the officer who received the charge to send a message to their home. One of them called to an inspector who was passing the cell, "Do my parents know?" whereupon he shut the grating and left them in the dark. The distracted father went from place to place, from police station to hospital, searching for them. On arriving he was at first told they were not there and only learnt of their presence on a second visit at four a.m. At six a.m. they were released to him, and ordered to appear in court next day, when they were fined £2 each for insulting behaviour. "Four pounds out of the family! Two pounds were all I earned last week! To strike me, and then to make me pay for it!" protested Miss C——.

But all over Whitechapel similar things were happening. Miss B——, a girl of 20, coming home with her father, aged 46, and her brother, aged 16, to their tobacconist's shop in the Commercial Road, suddenly found her father dragged away from her. "Why are you taking my father?" she protested. The policeman twisted her arm, and flung her aside. Then she saw that her brother had disappeared. Her father was kept till twelve p.m.; her brother till four p.m.

A man ran out of his house in his shirt-sleeves on hearing a noise of shouting. He was bundled into a motor lorry.

Miss C——, of Elder Street, Norton Folgate, on her way home, was held up by the crowd which had gathered outside Commercial Road Section House. Quite suddenly and without warning she was pushed off the pavement by a policeman, who used foul language, and in endeavouring to get out of the crowd she was again assaulted and insulted by a man whom she took to be a policeman in plain clothes.

Restaurants and clubs were raided; men were seized by the road side, and dragged from trams and 'buses. Some were dragged either by policemen or driven in motor lorries to Lemon Street Police Station or to the Section House in Commercial Street. Some were hustled into clubs and restaurants, either for examination or detention until they could be removed to the Police Station or Section House. Some men who showed papers were allowed to go free, but in what seems to have been by far the larger number of cases those who arrested them refused to look at their papers until several hours later. In Whitechapel the number of men and boys detained is estimated at from 1,200 to 1,500 or 2,000. Some put the number as high as three or four thousand. Yet only nine men were charged in Court as absentees, and only four were handed over to the Military Authorities.

Middle-aged men were taken and boys under sixteen years. Some of the lads were young enough to cry, and one bald-headed man who said he was a grandfather was beaten by several policemen, and was bleeding at the mouth. In the Section House especially men and boys were crowded together in dark rooms scarcely capable of containing the numbers that were forced into them, and treated with wanton violence.

Mr. S. G——, a discharged soldier, of Kingsland Road, was at the St. Mary's Temperance Club in the Whitechapel Road when the police entered at 10.30 p.m. He at once went up to the inspector, telling him that he was a discharged soldier, and offered to show his papers. The inspector brushed him aside with a threat that something would be done to him if he were not quiet, and handed him over to two constables who put the "arm-lock" on him and took him to the Section House. At 11.45 his papers were examined by an officer, and he was allowed to go at 12.45.

Mr. J. G——, another discharged soldier, of Shoreditch, was taken at the same place. He also volunteered to show his papers, but the police refused to look at them. He was taken to the Section House, and put into a crowded room. He was told by an Australian soldier who was at the door to "push back." Mr. G—— said: "It is impossible; there is such a crowd behind me." The soldier hit him in the stomach. Mr. G—— said: "I am a discharged soldier, and am suffering from concussion of the stomach." A policeman standing by the soldier took out his truncheon, and hit Mr. G—— on the shoulder; he was then dragged from the crowd, and handed over to a police-sergeant, who caught hold of him. Mr. G—— pleaded, "Use me lightly, as I have a very weak stomach." The sergeant answered, "If you don't keep quiet, I'll make the other part of your stomach hurt you very much more," and threw him into a cell. Mr. G—— was discharged two hours later.

An Australian soldier took off his coat, and offered to fight anyone in the room. A discharged soldier, who was there under arrest, said, "You are a disgrace to the uniform you are wearing." Whereat the soldier knocked him senseless.

Mr. P——, yet another discharged soldier taken at the same place, showed the discharged badge which he was wearing, but was told that he might have bought it, and was detained for some hours afterwards. His brother, aged 15, was kept till four a.m. at the Section House.

A father who took his son's papers to the Section House was asked his age. He answered, "Forty-seven." "Come in then; in you go!" was the reply, and he was dragged inside.

All Whitechapel is astonished and dismayed. The lads and girls are indignant, the older people speak with a melancholy disillusionment.

Mrs. S——and her husband are Russians, they keep a shop in the City, but live in Whitechapel. Mrs. S——said: "I could never have imagined such a thing would happen. They seized on men walking quietly along and all were so frightened they got in as quickly as they could, or went with the policeman so quietly, you might have thought they were organised! The police took boys of 15—kids, you know." She went to the Section House to inquire after her husband, who was arrested. The police refused to give her any in-

(Continued on page 760)

THE FRANCHISE BILL

IN PARLIAMENT

On May 15th Mr. Long introduced the Government Franchise Bill. As we announced last week, it is based on the lines of the Speaker's Conference Report. Under its provisions:—*For Parliament*: men get a residential franchise plus a business men's franchise on a £10 basis or a University vote. Women over thirty get votes as owners or tenants, or wives of owners or tenants plus a University Vote. The £10 business franchise is not open to them. The well-to-do may exercise two votes: the pauper disqualification is only slightly modified.

For Local Government owners' and tenants' franchise for both men and women, provided that husband and wife may not qualify for the same property. This bars out the majority of married working-class women. Plural voting unlimited and pauper disqualification remains as before.

Qualifying Period: 6 months for civilians, 1 month for soldiers and sailors; register made up twice a year, *i.e.*, an elector may have to wait only one day short of a year to get on the register or may manage it in 6 months and a day.

Persons who would have been qualified as Parliamentary voters, but for War service may vote if serving in the Army or Navy, or in service of a naval or military nature paid for by Parliament or in the British Red Cross or St. John's Ambulance. Munition workers are therefore left out. Perhaps this arrangement is cunningly devised to meet criticism should the women's clauses be dropped.

Proportional Representation introduced in certain constituencies.

Expenses.—Election expenses to be reduced. Candidates to deposit £150 to be returned if they poll more than one-eighth of the votes.

GOVERNMENT NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WOMEN.

Mr. Long said that the Government would leave the women's franchise and proportional representation "to be decided by the House"; if they were dropped, the Government would still proceed with the Bill. Mr. Mason reminded the Speaker that he had formerly ruled that to include women in a Bill in which they had originally no part would make it a new Bill, and that therefore it could not be proceeded with unless re-introduced. He asked whether the exclusion of women from a Bill in which they originally were would not make it a new Bill. The Speaker said "No"; because, of course, it would not have been convenient to say "Yes." His rulings are most adaptable, and subject to constant change. The Government which refuses to make the women's clauses an integral part of the measure cannot be trusted by women!

Lord Claude Hamilton opposed the Bill.

On May 23rd Sir George Cave moved the second reading. He said the Bill would enfranchise six million women. We should like to see that proposition explained, as we think the number of women who could be squeezed in under its provisions would be very much smaller

OPPOSITION TO THE BILL.

Colonel Sanders moved an amendment stating that it was undesirable at this time of anxiety to introduce far-reaching franchise changes without providing that "a reasonable proportion of soldiers and sailors will be able to vote at the next election." Of course, the best way to provide that is to stop the War at once. Does Colonel Sanders realise it?

Lord Hugh Cecil opposed the Bill in a speech of many witticisms. He was suspicious of legislation by Committee. "It seems to be thought," he said, "that the Mother of Parliaments is a toothless old crony who cannot chew her own dinner, but requires to have it prepared in a suitable manner by a skilled person in order that it may be sufficiently digestible to her. . . . This Bill is Benger's Food . . . I might eat Benger's Food . . . I should refuse in any circumstances to be forcibly fed with it." Parliament has grown appallingly ready to swallow any indigestible mass that the Government cares to produce, provided the intention is merely to restrict the liberties of the people; but Lord Hugh's simile cannot be carried far, for it is not the Members of Parliament, but the people outside, who suffer indigestion. Lord Hugh said he was a strong supporter of women's suffrage, and was chiefly anxious to get it adopted because the controversy was a "miserable" one, and ought to have been settled 30 years ago. Perhaps this is why he opposes the present measure, which assuredly will **not** settle the question. He considered that the extreme desire to pass this Bill in war-time, when, as it were, no one was looking, suggested that the Government did not, after all, think that it would be so very acceptable." In this we agree with Lord Hugh: the Bill is a poor one; we desire something better.

DISENFRANCHISING THE MARRIED WOMAN

"X," in the "Westminster Gazette," writes:—"It is often said that politicians at Westminster care more about machinery than realities—but is it credible that, at a moment when it is conceded on all hands, and by political leaders in particular, that women must take a greater part in the social reconstruction of the future, they are to be excluded from the municipal vote in the way you describe? It will, indeed, be amazing if thousands of married women who will have the Parliamentary vote are held by the House of Commons to be unfit to vote for town and county councils—unfit to vote for the people who have in their hands the education of these married women's children, the welfare work for their babies and infants, and the vital problem of the homes and houses in which they are to live! Much is possible, but surely not this."

"AGITATION WILL CONTINUE"

A leading article in the "Church Family Newspaper" on the Government Franchise Bill says:—". . . . if we have any criticism to offer it is that the age limit for women is higher than that for men. Owing to the ravages of war and its effect on the male population, this is demanded to meet existing conditions that will prevail for some years; but we are of opinion that the best solution of the whole woman question, as far as Parliament is concerned, is to place the sexes on an equality and to trust to good sense influencing the voters. As long as any manifest inequality remains, agitation will continue." The "Church Family Newspaper" is right: agitation will continue!

REVOLUTIONARY?

The "Glasgow Herald" describes the Speaker's Conference Franchise Bill as a "revolutionary" measure, "which nobody will describe as unheroic." Has the "Glasgow Herald" *read* the Bill?

The "Glasgow Herald" asks further that the House of Lords shall be made "a really effective part of the constitutional machinery." Reform of the House of Lords is a danger of which we must beware. We wish to end the Second Chamber—not to mend it!

BARNACLE v. WEATHER-COCKS

It has been rumoured that Sir Frederick Banbury would move an amendment to give the vote to every woman of 21 under the Government Franchise Bill. But no; Sir Frederick Banbury sticks more closely to his principles than some who profess to desire Adult Suffrage. He is moving to reject the entire franchise measure; whilst they are supporting a compromise!

SUFFRAGE CAMPAIGN

THE REFERENDUM IN BOW.

Let us show Parliament and the Government that the people want Adult Suffrage. A referendum of all men and women inhabitants, aged 21 and upwards, will shortly be taken in the four northern wards of Bow. These are the subjects on which the people will be asked to vote, with our advice to them as to how to mark the referendum paper:—

	Yes.	No.
ADULT SUFFRAGE—		
A VOTE FOR EVERY MAN	X	
A VOTE FOR EVERY WOMAN.....	X	
SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE TERMS		X
PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION	X	
THE REFERENDUM	X	

For further particulars apply to The Workers' Suffrage Federation, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3.

We ask for help in speaking and canvassing during the campaign, which will last about a month. The Adult Suffrage colour is red. Be sure to wear it!

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

The Engineers' Strike

After refusing to have anything to do with the strike leaders and arresting seven of their number, the Government has found itself forced to negotiate with the strikers, in spite of many refusals to do so. The grievances are now to be discussed by the A.S.E. and the Government. If the result is not satisfactory to the rank and file it is certain that the strike will be resumed. Negotiations are taking place in connection with the 'bus strike, and the workers may be out again at any time. The miners and transport workers are watching developments. Obviously the truce in the Labour world is finished with, 100,000 Liverpool dockers struck on May 19th and more trouble may be looked for.

Tyranny

At Birmingham Munitions Tribunal on May 16th a woman was fined 10s. for staying away half a day to take her baby to the hospital; another was fined 10s. for staying away half a day to see her young man off to Egypt.

One Nurse for 14 Tommies or 6 Officers

The report of the Committee appointed by the Army Council to inquire into the supply of nurses recommends a bonus of £1 for every six months' service (what would the Army contractors say to such a War profit?) and better pensions for permanent disablement. They also recommend a maximum of one trained nurse for 14 beds in ordinary hospitals, and one to every 6 beds in private hospitals for officers. What are the echoes saying about "equality of sacrifice" and "the sweeping away of class distinctions"?

Pensions to Soldiers' Widows

Soldiers' widows who, until now, have been refused pension on the ground that their husbands were not killed in action or did not die of wounds or of disease contracted whilst on service, should note Article 15 of the new Royal Warrant, which states that "the widow of a soldier who during the present War has died from wounds, injuries or disease, neither attributable to military service nor certified as substantially aggravated by such service, but not due to the serious negligence or misconduct of the deceased man, may be granted a temporary pension of 10s. a week for the period of the War and 12 months afterwards." A woman whose soldier husband was killed by falling over a cliff was refused pension, but on pressure from the League of Rights the pension was granted. We believe that the military authorities have withheld millions of money from those entitled to it because the persons concerned were not aware of the regulations. For further particulars concerning the National League of Rights apply to the Honorary Secretary at 400 Old Ford Road, E.

PEACE

No Annexations! No Indemnities!

In his speech in the French Chamber, M. Ribot, the Prime Minister, rejected the proposal of no annexations, no indemnities. He expressed his determination to secure Alsace-Lorraine and a War indemnity, which he calls by the name of reparation. When will the people of France awake to the knowledge that neither territory nor indemnities can pay for their daily losses?

The conclusion of a separate Peace between Austria and the Allies seems probable, as the following Reuter announcement indicates:—

"Amsterdam, May 22nd.—A German correspondent of the 'Tyd' says the Emperor Charles is disposed to offer Russia very generous peace conditions, which would include the integral re-establishment of Poland and the passage of the Dardanelles, but without agreeing with the Entente's war aims—'for the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy.' These peace conditions, including in addition the making of a loan to Russia, have, the correspondent adds, been discussed at the meetings between Count Czernin and the German Imperial Chancellor in Vienna and at the German Military Headquarters."

This statement and the announcement that the Imperialist Miliukoff has refused to accept a seat in the Russian Cabinet because he objects to Free Russia's foreign policy, lead us to hope that Russia is really making headway towards peace. What is needed now is for the workers in all the belligerent nations to take up the cry: NO ANNEXATIONS, NO INDEMNITIES!

The Leeds Conference

Some of the capitalist newspapers are asking whether the Leeds Conference, including repretives of Trades Councils, local Labour Parties, Socialist organisations, and women's industrial and political organisations, and branches of the Workers' Suffrage Federation will initiate a Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' delegates like that of Russia.

CAESAR'S IMAGE

When the man was up, and the woman was down,
Blood ran red in field and town:
Sightless died the babe in the womb,
And the mother's body became a tomb;
Fire broke loose through the country side,
The vintage rotted, the harvest died.

When the man was down, the woman was up,
She brought him health in a feeding-cup,
She washed his body from sweat and dirt,
She smoothed his pillow, she dressed his hurt,
Then, from the habit of being kind,
She went too far and flattered his mind.

Amid the wreck of a thousand homes
She reared for his noddle-box stately domes;
And said (for he said it himself, poor fool!)
That man, the male, was born to rule;
So, having recovered him body and brain,
She set him up on his legs again.

When the man was whole with his wounds all healed,
He set up a stone on the battlefield;
He carved a statue, he graved a name,
Piled it with wreaths, and called it "Fame."
And the woman stood by, and, applauding too,
Cried "That is the very image of you!"

There it stands on a brazen shelf—
Man's statue reared to his noble self!
And under its foot lie buried shapes—
Burnt homes, dead babes, and a million rapes;
And all these things the work of man,
The image of him since Time began.

On every field, in every age,
When Peace has turned the blood-stained page,
This is the way the world has wagged,
The woman has brayed and the man has bragged;
They carve a statue, they grave a name,
Pile it with wreaths and call it "Fame."

LAURENCE HOUSMAN.

The Adult Municipal Vote in Russia

The Committee of Social organisations in Moscow has decided that all Russian citizens of both sexes having reached the age of twenty are entitled to vote in the municipal elections. No one to have more than one vote in the district. The vote is not transferable.

A POGROM IN LONDON (continued from page 658)

formation, but she saw one of them strike a little boy who cried bitterly, saying, "You ought not to have hit me."

Mr. S——, a kindly, serious man, said that men who had been examined at the Section House were re-arrested by other constables before they got to the corner of Commercial Road. "It is a very bad system," he said sadly, "two or three hundred men in a room and if one of them only wants to look out, the policemen bang him on the head. It is not nice for themselves to do it: it is not nice for this century."

Not only was Mr. S——, arrested, but his two brothers. Mrs. S—— told us that she was talking to her brother-in-law at the door of her house when a policeman shouted: "Come along, what are you doing here?" "This is my brother's house," said Mr. S——. "Never mind, your brother's house," replied the constable, making ready to drag Mr. S——, away, but his wife ran forward with his papers. "All right," said the constable, catching sight of a young man in the passage, to whom he called, "What are you doing here? Why aren't you in the Army? Are you English born?" "Yes, I am English born." "Then come along with us." "I am exempt; here's my card. It won't take me a moment to fetch my papers," the young man answered. "No, come along!" A girl ran to fetch the papers, but returned to find that the youth had been dragged away. He was kept till 2.30 a.m.

Almost immediately Mr. S—— learnt that his brother had also been taken, and on setting out in search of him he was seized by a policeman, who, refusing to look at his papers, dragged him to the Section House, and threw him into a cellar. He felt very faint and asked for water, but none was brought to him. At 12.30 p.m. he was taken to Lemon Street, where it was discovered that when he changed his address recently he had not taken his identity book to the police. Therefore he was kept till next morning and fined 40s. at Arbour Square. Mr. H. S—— saw many acts of violence in the street. A man knocked down by the police, the man's brother protested that he suffered from fits, but the police kicked him as he lay there. A Russian who was arrested said, "I came from Paris, and I have to go back there to-morrow"; a policeman seized him by the throat and said, "If I had my way I'd have all your throats cut." Mr. H. S—— was himself arrested. He saw about 60 boys crowded into a cell so tightly that they could scarcely move: some fainted. A policeman accused him of having gone to Brighton last year without notifying the police. Mr. H—— protested that "he had notified the police, and that his book had been stamped by the H Division." One constable immediately took him by the throat and struck him, but another, looking at the book, admitted that it had been stamped. Then a constable seized H. S—— by the arms, and using him as a battering ram, thrust him far in amongst a crowd of men packed into a small, dark, filthy room. The police kept striking the men at the door, and calling: "Get back, you swine: get back or I'll murder you!" as the men within struggled for air. Upstairs there were only 12 or 14 men in a large room. "And they imagine that such things will make us fight for them," he said. "I will not fight, and kill other men. I want to fight no one. If they pass a law to force Russians into the Army I have my business here, my wife is an English girl, but I will go to a neutral country, and if they will not let me go they may take me and shoot me; that I cannot help, only I will not fight. In Russia there is no law for objectors: they are shot." He spoke earnestly, with sometimes a little flickering smile and one felt that, just so, with his head held erect and refusing a bandage for his clear eyes, he would stand to wait the shots.

Mrs. E——, a restaurant keeper, said that police and soldiers suddenly entered her premises and ordered that no one should move. At first she thought that a robbery or murder must have been committed. They dragged men and boys in from the street, kept them prisoners for a time, and then dragged them away. "Has my boy to go?" she said, afraid, "he is only 16." The policeman told her to be silent. She never saw anything like the scenes, except in Russia under the Czar's Government and never there on such an extensive scale.

Mr. O——, a flour merchant, was just leaving the door of his shop to post some letters at 10.15 p.m., and to summon a doctor to his wife, who was ill when a policeman dragged him into a restaurant a few doors away. In vain he explained his position, in vain the restaurant keeper verified his story, the police refused to listen. Twenty minutes' later he was marched past his shop to the Section House. He showed a policeman his coat, which could be seen hanging on a peg inside, telling him that his papers were in the pocket and asking him to let him get it and tell his wife what had happened. The request was refused. He writes:—

"When we got to the Section House I was pushed in a room where about three or four hundred men and boys were all scrambling like a lot of sheep. About twenty minutes' later they pushed in another hundred or so. The crush and shouting was great. Soldiers and police were fighting in the room. I was near the door, and as soon as I could I made my way out into the yard and was ordered up into another room, where I saw many more men and boys being brought in."

After much effort Mr. O—— was at last allowed to telephone for his papers, which were brought to him at 1.30, and shortly afterwards released. Tips to the constables appear in several cases to have shortened the period of waiting.

A correspondent writes that one of his friends was returning home when a constable arrested him. On the way to the station the policeman said: "Are you a Jew? You look like one." "No," replied the prisoner; "you can see my registration card." The constable answered, "Oh, never mind; as you are not a b—— Jew I don't think I shall detain you, after all." Says our correspondent: "Such an example of rank anti-Semitism is worthy of old Czar-ridden Russia!"

Yes, this is the first British anti-Semitic pogrom: let us hope that we may never see another, for such customs once started are apt to grow more cruel and violent.

In Russia, whenever the people struggled more desperately for their freedom the police were instructed to organise a pogrom against the Jews and always the authorities strove to make the Russian people believe that the cause of their troubles, the enemy that they must fight, was not the Czardom, but the Jews. When War broke out with Germany it was declared by the police that the Jews were spies, and on January 9th, 1916, an official circular to the police department inciting to anti-Jewish propaganda was sent to all Governors, Prefects, and Local Authorities. The Russian Government, desiring that Jews should fight in its army, promised to withdraw this circular, but on June 3rd, 1916, Tchenkeli complained that it was still being distributed, and that others containing most hideous and unwarrantable accusations had been issued. As a result, many massacres took place, women and girls were outraged, old men were hung by the roadside.

But now Free Russia has granted freedom to the Jews, and we should like to believe that anti-Semitism is altogether banished from Russia. Are we to have a recrudescence of that old disgraceful savagery in this country?

The Conventions with Allied States Bill, which is passing through Parliament, will give the power to force the subjects of Russia, or of any other Allied Power, into the British Army. In the Bill, as it stands, they are allowed no option to go, either to a neutral country or to the land of their birth. We offered free untrammelling hospitality to these fugitives: now our Government holds them as prisoners, refusing them leave to go, refusing even the meagre rights of conscientious objection granted to British men. Yet the Jews were the earliest conscientious objectors. There is much talk to-day of creating a Jewish State in Palestine and granting self-government to them there under British rule. Will the Jews be made conscripts also in Palestine? Will anti-Jewish pogroms continue here? British mothers and fathers you cannot save your sons by sending the sons of other nationalities to the slaughter! It is not these poor workers but powerful individuals who made the War and refuse to let it end!

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

FROM THE COUNTRY

Dear Editor,

The heavy rain has set Spring free from her long bondage, she makes up for lost time. The ees and fields alter from day to day and are more beautiful than words can tell. How we long transplant the dwellers in cities, where they can have their share of this natural unclaimed ritage. And those others, too, who may not come, they are ever in our minds and not the least nfully when we think of their surprise and despair—that we at home go on as usual, apparently ardless of their terrible fate.

We, too, shall have our day of reckoning if famine overtakes us. The crusade against waste asonable and necessary—but we must remember to be eaten with profit, bread must be of honest rial and not too stale. You cannot make people eat what they do not wish, and if the staff e is adulterated—as in known instances—with insoluble ground gypsum, stone,—no wonder it weighs too heavily on the scales, and in the stomach, too. There is no economy in keeping bread more than 24 hours before using. To offer an unappetising stale loaf is encouraging waste.

The food experts point out the inestimable value of wheat as a perfect food, and bid us beware how we separate it by milling, thus defeating nature's perfect provision; such advisers would do well to see the people get this bread from Heaven and not an inferior article prepared by unscrupulous men.

The poor cannot search for miles for the best bread in the best shop—but must take what is provided close at home.

This evening I had a painful reminder of what may be in store. The old black dog here has been on short rations for days, his biscuits gave out—very few scraps were to be had; at last he could bear it no longer, and told me plainly how hungry he was—he followed me everywhere, led the way to the place where his food should be, drove away the cat and drank her milk, and was so urgent and pathetic I was quite distressed. At last I gave him part of my supper of goat's milk and barley bread. If so painful to see a hungry dog, how shall we bear it when our children cry for food?

The King and Queen came this way last week and went over some munition works—but, alas! they were not treated as grown-up intelligent people and shown the place as it really is. How insulted they would feel if they knew how things are dolled up for their inspection—they would perhaps notice the unnaturally clean overalls, the closed door of certain departments, the clear healthy atmosphere. Perhaps they said, "Where are the fumes we hear of? How people do exaggerate. There is nothing to complain of here!"

Thus, they are misled as to the reality of the trenches at home.

They saw "the rest-house"—but not the frail girl who lay there a few hours before—gassed—her yellow skin fading slowly to a still paler tint—until a gentle sign told of her passing to rest where women do not make munitions.

MARY CROSLAND TAYLOR.

CELEBRATING THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

A great and enthusiastic meeting to celebrate the Russian Revolution was held in the Congress Hall, Brighton, on May 18th. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and Mr. John Scurr were the principal speakers. DREADNOUGHTS sold well.

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By order of the Consulate, Russian sailors were not allowed to attend the demonstration to celebrate the Russian Revolution at the Pembroke Chapel, Liverpool, on Sunday, May 20th. Why? On the previous Sunday the sailors from Russian warships had taken part in an open-air meeting of the local B.S.P. Branch (the first since the beginning of the War) and had evoked great enthusiasm by singing Russian revolutionary songs. A hundred seats had been reserved for the sailors by the conveners of the meeting at Pembroke Chapel, and Mrs. Bouvier, W.S.F., was to have spoken to them in Russian. The chapel was, nevertheless, packed to its utmost capacity, the speeches of W. C. Anderson, M.P., Rev. Dunnico, Rev. C. H. Watkins, Mrs. Bouvier, and Rev. Donald Fraser evoked great enthusiasm, and the resolution expressing sympathy with the Russian Revolution and calling upon the Governments of Great Britain and other belligerent and neutral countries to follow Russia's example, was carried unanimously. A most successful open-air meeting was held again by the B.S.P. in the evening at which all the speakers dealt with the Russian Revolution, Internationalism, Adult Suffrage, and Peace by Negotiation instead of the "Knock-out Blow." There was no opposition, and the resolution was carried with a splendid show of hands and with only one dissentient. This was a triumph indeed considering that in Liverpool all progressive open-air propaganda had been stopped since the beginning of the war owing to the attitude taken up by "patriots."

HOMES WANTED.

To the Editor of the "WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT."

Dear Editor,—I am writing to ask you to insert in the DREADNOUGHT the letter below, as I am endeavouring to prevent the children of our gallant men from getting into the clutches of the Poor Law. Does any reader know of anyone in the country who would be willing to take one, two, three or four children of soldiers serving at the front, either for a short period, whilst the mother is in hospital, or when the child is recovering from illness, or, in the case of the death of both parents, to adopt them altogether? Of course, in the first two cases, the payment will be at the motherless rate, and in the latter at the flat rate of 5s. per week.

ARTHUR MACKINLAY.

12 Fortnam Road,
Upper Holloway, N. 19.

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

May 15th.—Commander Wedgwood (L.) pointed out that military medical men call up hundreds of men for re-examination at 8.30 a.m., thus interfering with the whole industry of a district by keeping these men waiting all day. He recommended calling small groups at certain hours. Mr. Macpherson promised to see what could be done.

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Thirty Unionist Members are at the front, many of whom are opponents of Woman Suffrage, therefore Mr. Arnold Ward (U.) said that they should be allowed to attend the House during the progress of the Electoral Reform Bill. Evidently he thinks it more important to stop women getting votes than to "win the War"!

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Lord Rhondda's Venereal Disease Bill was read a third time and passed. No radical amendments were made.

TRADE UNION AMALGAMATION BILL.

The third reading of the Trade Union Act Amendment Bill, giving power to Trade Unions to amalagamate, was passed. Mr. Duncan (Lab.) explained that at present there were between 1,100 and 1,200 unions here, whilst in Germany there were only 24. It was finally decided that the quorum voting must be 50 per cent. of the membership, and that there should be a majority of 20 per cent. in favour of amalgamation. It is a decided impertinence that a Parliament mainly composed of employers of labour should have the power to dictate the rules of trade unions. If private employers of labour had been abolished and we were all workers on equal terms, there would be more logic in the business. But, even so, the members of the Union should be the only persons allowed to make its rules.

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The Military Service (Conventions with Allied States) Bill,to force conscription on aliens in this country, was counted out. This, however, only postpones the evil day.

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May 16th.—Mr. Ramsay Macdonald (Lab.) alleged that the finger-prints of Mr. Coult, a "C.O.," had been ordered to be taken by the authorities. No information was forthcoming.

WORKERS' HOLIDAYS.

Mr. Fell (U.) urged that munition and other War workers should get a ten days' holiday during July, August, or September.

Mr. Kellaway, in reply, stated that the two controlling factors were the military situation in France and the difficulties of transport at home. Cabinet Ministers and members of Parliament are never stinted in their holidays by such considerations. Indeed, Mr. Henderson described Mr. Lloyd George's sparing a few hours on a Saturday to "settle" the engineers' strike as though it were an act of very great condescension.

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Colonel Lord H. Cavendish-Bentinck advocated the appointment of women on the Consultative Committee now considering the amendments to the Munitions Act Amendment Bill. He also called attention to a notice posted in the premises of Messrs. Strachan and Henshaw, Whitehall Ironworks, Bristol, which alleged that women, by slacking, are allowing their husbands and brothers to be slaughtered for want of shell. Mr. Kellaway said that the Ministry of Munitions had remonstrated with the firm on three separate occasions. Where the Ministry of Munitions wants to enforce any measure of coercion it does not merely "remonstrate"; it acts!

COUNTESS MARCKIEWICZ.

Mr. Byrne (I.N.) and Mr. Ginnell (Sinn Fein) pleaded for better treatment for the Irish political prisoners, in particular for Countess Marckiewicz. Mr. Brace was quite sure that no amelioration was necessary (!).

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The Chief Secretary for Ireland denied Mr. Ginnell's statement that a memorial device displayed at the offices of the Irish Women's Franchise League in Dublin on the first anniversary of the murder of the late Mr. Sheehy Skeffington was removed by the police.

PEACE TERMS.

On the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill Mr. Snowden (Lab.) moved the following: "That this House welcomes the declaration of the new democratic Government of Russia, repudiating all proposals for imperialistic conquest and aggrandisement, and calls on His Majesty's Government to issue a similar declaration on behalf of the British democracy, and to join with the Allies in restating the Allied terms in conformity with the Russian declaration." He pointed out that the Russian Revolution necessitated a new War policy and that the British Government should declare its attitude towards the Russian policy of "No annexations and no indemnities." Mr. Snowden quoted M. Kerensky's words at a reception to some foreign delegates: "We will not permit a return to the old aims of a War of usurpation. We beg you to convey to your Governments and the workmen of France and Great Britain that these are the true sentiments of the Russian people." America, too, when entering the War, made similar declarations of disinterestedness; therefore he urged that the old Allied Note which "stiffened Germany" ought to be supplanted by a new one leaving no doubt as to the objects of the Allies in prosecuting the War. Mr. Lees Smith (L.) seconded the motion, and explained that he had been a supporter of the War, and would be still if he were convinced that it was still necessary to continue the War for the original purposes for which it was waged. Now other aims, such as the dismemberment of Austria, and the conquest of Constantinople for Russia, are being smuggled in which Mr. Lees Smith said would never have received the national consent. There can be no harm done to this country by entering into negotiations; the next move to be made must be by Great Britain. He strongly protested against retaining the German colonies in Africa, because by so doing Great Britain would not be in a position to ask any of her Allies to give up their claims to conquered territory. At the same time, Mr. Lees Smith proposed "a re-arrangement of the colonial spheres between the Great Powers." If some such plan is not agreed to, he argued that there is no alternative but to go on with the War until the Allies satisfy all their demands. He also referred to an invitation of the Council of Soldiers' and Workers' Delegates addressed to the Allied Governments of the world: "We call upon the Governments of the Allied States to state their attitude on the policy of conquest and on the general aims of the War before their respective democracies and before those of the whole world." Mr. Ramsay Macdonald (Lab.) dwelt on the danger of Germany and Russia making a separate peace; because of the tardiness of the Allies in declaring their aims. Mr. Trevelyan (L.) also voiced this opinion, though he pointed out that the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates, the only assembly where the soldiers are directly represented, does not want a separate peace for Russia, but "peace by negotiation at once." The people of all the belligerent nations want peace, he urged. Mr. Trevelyan touched on what the "Knock-Out Blow" doctrine had done for Ancient Greece in the Peloponnesian War, the ruthless prosecution of which had made Greece a secondary Power for all time.

Mr. Ponsonby (L.) accused the Government of bringing about the state of feeling in Germany which caused the German Chancellor to say recently: "Even to-day I see no readiness for peace on the part of Great Britain and France, and no abandonment of their excessive aims of conquest or economic destruction." Commander Wedgwood (L.) expressed himself in favour of showing the Germans that they can have "peace now on decent, honourable terms." To relinquish the African colonies would, he admitted, be a great sacrifice; yet he, for his part, would be prepared to contemplate even that if it were necessary to end the War! The speeches made by Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. Asquith were disappointing, in view of the very temperate and well-reasoned arguments in favour of peace terms. Lord Robert Cecil raked up all the atrocities committed by the Turks and the Germans in the countries subject to them. We would ask him whether these countries were not shown the way by the country known as the most successful coloniser in the world! He could not contemplate handing the African colonies back to Germany, having "rescued" them. The Germans are the murderers who began the War; they, too, must state their peace terms first. Does Lord Robert Cecil forget that they did state their peace terms first, and that this country regarded that action as a sign of weakness on the part of the enemy? As for Russia and the new Government, he said that it was open to her to say that she does not wish any particular promise to be fulfilled. If the Russian Government says definitely that it is not fighting for Constantinople, shall we then be in sight of peace? Mr. Asquith (L.) termed the debate both "useful and instructive." He favoured no change of purpose, because by that we should be treacherous to the memory of those who had died for that cause. He advocated the union of "artificially separated nationalities," which plan, if carried into effect all round, would surely dismember the British Empire. We know, of course, that nothing of the kind was meant by Mr. Asquith. A division was taken, 238 voting for the Government and 32 against.

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May 17th.—In reply to Mr. Byrne (I.N.), Mr. Duke acknowledged that there were many strikes in Ireland due to inadequate wages which in some instances have resulted in the stoppage of work.

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Major Hunt (U.) advocated handing over strikers of military age to the Military Authorities! Mr. Kellaway said the Minister of Munitions was not prepared to take the course suggested. We should hope not.

IRISH DEPORTEES.

Mr. Duke admitted that the Irish deportees who gave themselves leave to go to Ireland have not returned to England, and that their whereabouts are still unknown.

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Attention was drawn to the loss of food-stuffs through the inadequate railway facilities. Mr. Peto (U.) stated that a trainload of green bacon had to be transferred from the Great Eastern Railway Goods Depôt to Messrs. Cook's Soap Works in Bow because it had got bad for lack of transport facilities. Meanwhile we are being exhorted to eat less of everything. What is the use, whilst this extravagance goes on?

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Mr. Ginnell (Sinn Fein) alleged that a false report was sent by the Censor to America, Canada, and Australia about the Longford election.

AGITATION AGAINST C.O.s.

Sir Kinloch-Cooke (U.) put a whole host of questions implying that the Dartmoor and Princetown C.O.s were too well treated. One of his grievances was that they were allowed to keep their own bicycles. Sir G. Cave promised to make new rules which will allow less freedom. He did not see why they could not have bicycles at their own expense.

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Mr. Kellaway announced that the question of giving medals to munition workers in recognition of their services is being considered.

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Mr. Lloyd George said with reference to the conclusions of the Imperial War Cabinet that "they are of necessity secret." It has been decided to hold meetings of an Imperial Cabinet annually, or when urgent Imperial concerns require to be settled. All parts of the Empire are allotted representatives, excepting Ireland!

BOARD OF TRADE.

Sir Albert Stanley, President of the Board of Trade, made his first speech in the House. He explained that the Trade Banks which had been decided on were necessary for the development of British industry after the War. In later remarks he pointed out that unless the public stored coal now and during the summer there would be a shortage in winter because means of transit would not be forthcoming. It seems a strange thing to advise the storing of coal for he must know that it is only the well-to-do who can afford to do it in the first instance or who have space to keep it. The authorities in each district should store sufficient for the inhabitants there, and thus distribute equally to poor and rich alike.

ENGINEERS' STRIKE.

Mr. Anderson (Lab.) moved the adjournment to urge on the Ministry of Munitions the necessity of meeting the men. He did not fail to rub in that the Government, by breaking its pledge to dilute only for War work, was responsible for the present unrest. He dwelt on the futility of threatening all these thousands of men with penal servitude, such actions merely annoyed the workers still more. Dr. Addison said the Ministry of Munitions could not withdraw the Munitions of War Bill because by dilution in private firms skilled men might be procured for War-work. He protested that it was not possible to negotiate with men who might have been self-appointed and did not represent anybody such an action would be detrimental to the authority of Trade Unionism. The workers will know how to receive such talk!

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May 21st.—In reply to the plea of Mr. Ginnell (Sinn Fein) for the immediate release of Irish prisoners and deportees, Mr. Duke regretted that the time had not yet come for reopening these cases.

ECONOMY!

For the National Service Department, Mr. Walsh stated that £78,000 had already been spent in advertising, that 9,092 people had been placed, therefore the advertising for each recruit cost £8 10s. Such are the ways of a business Government!

AN IRISH CONVENTION.

Mr. Lloyd George's scheme for separate Irish and Ulster Parliaments and a Joint Council elected from them having been rejected by the Irish Party, the Prime Minister came to the House to announce that it was decided to hand the Irish question over to a Convention representative of all leading interests, classes, creeds, and phases of thought in Ireland. It would not be a Convention of political parties, although they would be represented even to the extent of including Sinn Feiners, but local governing bodies, churches, trade unions, commercial, and educational interests would be represented. He hoped that a complete agreement would be reached for the future government of "Ireland within the Empire." In referring to the former failures of the Government, Mr. Lloyd George attributed them to the fact that they happened owing to those proposals being made by the British Government. Mr. John Redmond (I.N.) approved of the Prime Minister's statement, and added that the Convention must be a free assembly in the real sense of the word, and must be representative. He favoured having a "nominated element" as well as the elected one. But those of us who know how previous Irish assemblies have been nominated must feel suspicious of this suggestion. Sir John Lonsdale (U.) reiterated the old Unionist War-cry that Ulster Unionists will not be driven into a Home Rule Parliament which as good as promises that no settlement will result from the Convention. Mr. Ginnell (Sinn Fein) in a long speech denounced the Convention as a partition and a "packed Convention" which cannot be representative owing to Sinn Feiners being in prison. Although Sir Edward Carson appealed to Ulster to try to come to a settlement he affirmed that he has in no way modified his opinions and that he will abide by the decision of the Unionist Council as to whether it is to take part in the Convention. He hinted that sooner than let his Ulster colleagues down he would leave the Government. The Convention, if it takes place, will be an experiment, but we fear no good results can come of it unless such a generous basis for election be chosen as that suggested by Count Plunkett, namely: Adult Suffrage. We do not believe that any good can come of a "nominated element." Statements by Lord Midleton and others in the House of Lords appear to promise trouble.

FOREIGN NEWS

The "Journal du Peuple" reports serious strikes in Warsaw and Lodz, which have an entirely political character. One hundred and fifty strikers in Warsaw have been arrested and interned in German camps.

The International Socialist Commission in Berne has invited all groups concerned to take part in the third Zimmerwald Conference to be held on May 31st, in Stockholm, to discuss the question of peace and the attitude with regard to the Stockholm Conference.

It is proposed to form a block of different parties to co-operate in the realisation of political reforms in Germany. The block is to include representatives of the Conservative parties as well as representatives of Trade Unions and Socialists.

The deputy Tchrugareff declares that the Constituent Assembly will be convened at latest in September.

The Rumanian Embassy in Berne announces that constitutional reforms are being introduced in Roumania. Henceforth representatives for Parliament will be elected by universal, equal, direct and secret votes and on the basis of proportional representation, so as to represent the minorities. 2,300,000 hectares of land will be given to the peasants. Landowners, possessing more than 100 hestares of land will be expropriated in proportion to their property, the State paying them the value of the expropriated land.

The Turkish Ambassador in Berne, in an interview with the "Berner Tagblatt," declared that Turkey is willing to meet the wishes of the Russians with regard to opening the Dardanelles.

In reply to a deputation of the Russian Peasant Congress, Kerensky said that the Government has decided to prohibit speculations in land, forests, and any natural wealth of Russia, until the Constituent Assembly has settled this question. This decree will be published and the public notaries have been asked not to register any operations of this kind.

A RUSSIAN WOMEN'S CONGRESS

The "Rousskoe Slovo" ("Russian Word"), April 8th (21st), reports that a Women's Congress was attended by delegates from Women's organisations, those from Moscow ranking first in numbers, those from Petrograd second, and many provincial towns being represented. Madame Schischtrine (President of the Petrograd Women's Equal Rights' League) was elected president of the Congress. Speeches were delivered by representatives of women teachers, doctors, lawyers, artists, and of Jewish, Lithuanian and Moslem Societies. Madame Bourdanova (Vice-President of the Congress) urged the need of preparing and educating women for the responsibilities of "Equal Rights." Various speakers dealt with the part of women in the Constituent Assembly, the Legislative Chambers, and Local Government. Madame Tcherniak (representative of the Professional Unions) reproached the Congress with its lack of a definite political programme. She denied the existence of women's ideals as separate from men's ideals, protesting against the formation of special women's organisations. She criticised the bourgeois parties and protested that many Societies and Unions had not been summoned to the Congress. There were many interruptions and protests during her speech, and after reading a formal protest she left the meeting. Madame Axelrod, in reply, declared that the social position of women differed from that of men owing to their physical characteristics, and that a purely women's organisation was therefore necessary in the fight for equal rights. She unfolded a political programme on which, in her opinion, all women could unite, and which included a Democratic Republic with a single Chamber; a people's Army or National Militia, the decision of all questions of war and peace by a popular referendum and the popular control of diplomacy.

A member of the Congress pleaded that women doctors should not be sent to the front except in the case of urgent need. Madame Ossipova (a medical woman) replied: "In the name of the women doctors, I ask the Congress not to make any sex distinctions but to assign us work in perfect equality with men. Only the protection due to motherhood and childhood should place women in a temporary position of privilege."

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WHAT'S ON?

W.S.F. FIXTURES
OUTDOOR

FRIDAY, MAY 25th.
Knapp Road, Bromley, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Armagh Road, Bow, 7 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
SATURDAY, MAY 26th.
Near Army and Navy Stores (Victoria), 11 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Salmon and Ball, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Mrs. Cressall.
Hoxton Street, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
SUNDAY, MAY 27th.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Highbury Corner, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
The Grove, Stratford, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Walker.
TUESDAY, MAY 29th.
Armagh Road, Bow, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Clock Tower, Burdett Road, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Mr. W. Holmes.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 30th.
Ford Road, Bow, 7 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
Hague Street (Bethnal Green), 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
THURSDAY, MAY 31st.
Cannon Street Road, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
FRIDAY, JUNE 1st.
Obelisk, Bow, 7 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
Gernon Road, Bow, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Pitfield Street, Hoxton, 7 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.
SATURDAY, JUNE 2nd.
Near Army and Navy Stores, 11 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Bonner Lane, Old Ford Road, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Ford Road, Bow, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.

INDOOR

CHANDOS HALL, 21a Maiden Lane (off Bedford Street, Strand, W.C.)—"At Home," 3.30 p.m., to-day (Saturday). The speakers are: Mrs. K. Outhwaite, "The Restoration of the Land"; Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, "The Present Outlook." June 2nd, Rev. W. J. Piggott, "The U.D.C. and its Constructive Policy"; Mrs. Bouvier, "The Present Outlook."

BOW WOMEN'S HALL.—Annual Conference, Sunday and Monday, 3 p.m. Singing Class, Wednesday, 8 p.m.

49 CREDITON ROAD, TIDAL BASIN.—Wednesday, May 30th, 8 p.m., Branch Meeting.

ST. STEPHEN'S SHOP, 85 Hoxton Street.—Thursday, May 31st, 8.15 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, "The Struggle in Russia."

FOOD REFORM RESTAURANT, 2 Furnival Street, Holborn.—Thursday, May 31st, 7 p.m., Lecture by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, on "The Food Shortage—Shall we adopt Scientific Rationing?" Chair, Miss Price. Food experts and members of the audience to take part in the discussion.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

KINGSLEY HALL, 8.15 p.m., Sunday, May 27th.—Speaker, Stanley James. Discussion, 9.30.

W.S.F SOCIAL

ST. STEPHEN'S SHOP, 85 Hoxton Street (a few minutes' walk from Shoreditch Church or from Old Street Station).—A Social will be held on Thursday, June 7th, 8-11 p.m. Music and dancing. Speech by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. Tickets, 4d., including tax. Refreshments at popular prices.

W.S.F AT HOME

The West Central Branch of the W.S.F. held its first "At Home," on Saturday last at 144 High Holborn. The programme was a very interesting one, and included the following artistes: Mrs. Francis Meynell (piano), Miss Bouvier (songs), Miss Dorothy Matthews (recitation), Miss Norah Smyth (recitation)), Mr. Martyn (song and concertina), Master Ellis (songs), Miss Helsby (song). Mr. Francis Meynell presided, and Miss Sylvia Pankhurst spoke on the work of the Federation. New members were made for the branch, which promises to be a most active one. The Hon. Secretary, Miss Eve Casey and her able helpers deserve great praise for providing a most pleasant and successful evening. As Miss Pankhurst aptly said in replying to the vote of thanks, she did not feel that she ought to be thanked but rather the West Central Branch, because it promises to do some of the work which was hitherto done by headquarters.

BOW CHOIR

Friends are invited to attend the Singing Class, held on Wednesday evenings, 8 p.m., at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow. A highly qualified teacher is always in attendance.

FORCIBLE FEEDING

Emanuel Ribeiro, arrested as a conscientious objector, has refused food since his arrest in January, and has been forcibly fed at Lord Derby's Hospital, Winwick, near Harrington, twice daily for twenty weeks. He has five children and a delicate wife, who is expecting another child. Obviously, forcible feeding cannot continue indefinitely; already the man must be far too ill to be any use for military service; to torture him longer is a useless piece of cruelty. The law is said to safeguard the genuine conscientious objector. What a mockery! How could this man do more to prove himself?

Clippings of Material of all kinds (must measure at least 5 by 6 inches) can be used in our Toy Factory at 45 Norman Road, Bow, E., and will be most gratefully received if friends will kindly send them.

COMPULSORY EXAMINATION
THE BRENTFORD CASE.

In reply to questions put on May 17th, by Commander Wedgwood (L.) and Mr. W. C. Anderson (Lab.) on the Brentford case, when two women were detained and medically examined, Sir G. Cave (L. Min.) said that the Magistrates did not order them to be medically examined, but remanded them for inquiries and for the opinion of the Medical Officer as to whether the women were suffering from disease! "I have informed the magistrate that this request should not have been made. In consequence of the magistrates' request, the two women were medically examined in Holloway Prison, and were reported to be free from disease. The prison medical authorities have definite instructions that no woman is to be medically examined without her consent, and I am assured that in this case the necessary consents were obtained?" "It appears to me that no illegality was committed; but in my opinion there was no reason whatever why the magistrate should have asked for an opinion from the Medical Officer, and I regret that the request was made." Sir Geo. Cave said that prisoners were always told that they might refuse. Inquiries have been made and these prisoners state that they were not told this. The married woman who has a baby of two months old, whom she was nursing and from whom she was kept for 48 hours, understood that she would not be released unless she submitted to the examination.

Commander Wedgwood asked whether girls due for discharge from Aylesbury Gaol are obliged to submit to a medical examination, and if found suffering from venereal disease, are detained beyond their sentence. Sir G. Cave replied that under Statutory Rule 11 all prisoners must be examined before discharge. No prisoner is locally examined for venereal disease without consent. No prisoner can legally be detained beyond the expiration of her sentence, and no prisoners are, or have been, so detained.

Sir G. Cave also said that he believed that the prisoners who refuse their consent are kept in up to the legal end of their sentence and not allowed the opportunities other prisoners have of getting their sentences curtailed, but that he would make further inquiries.

In view of these facts it is important that the public should realise what this medical examination is. We therefore publish a description of it prepared by Mr. Maurice Gregory, who worked with Josephine Butler for 13 years, and circulated amongst members of Parliament:—

"What does the 'Thorough Examination' of the Woman really mean? The woman is placed on a surgical chair, which is tilted back, the motion automatically extending her lower limbs and raising her feet, and a large metal instrument is inserted into her body called a speculum, which expands the multitudinous folds of the physical functions of motherhood right up to the mouth of the womb. No examination of the man has any relation whatever to this outrage on the motherhood of the race, this desecration of that which should be the Temple of the Holy Ghost."

It was added in a supplementary note that "Wasserman is of no value in this relation. Its sole value is as a test in the progress of cure. On a healthy person it may mean that his grandfather had the complaint. And for the first three weeks after infection Wassermann shows no traces of the taint, in one who never had the malady before, and who has no hereditary traces of it."

As may well be imagined, the examination is said to be most painful.

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GENERAL FUND.—Irene, per Mrs. Drake (weekly), £1; letting of hall to Scouts, £1; Mr. Dean, 10s.; letting of hall to Workers' Union, 6s.; Miss L. Cutten' (monthly), 5s.; Cornsay Branch, per Mrs. Winter, 4s.; Mr. Lazarnick, per Mrs. Drake (fares), 2s.; Anon, 6d.

COLLECTIONS.—Miss Price 12s.; Mrs. Walker, 11s. 3d.; donation from Poplar Club, 10s.; Mrs. Cressall, 5s. 6d.; Mrs. Boyce, 5s. 3d.; Chandos Hall, 2s. 5d.; Bow Women's Hall, 1s. 2d. Victoria Park sympathisers, per Mrs. Drake (fares), 1s. 2d.

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COLLECTIONS.—Misses E. Lagsding and L. Barker (Green's Yard), 9s. 6d.; Mothers at Bow Clinic (monthly), 6s. 6d.; Misses K. Lagsding and T. Barker (Cubitt Town), 4s. 9d.; L.S.A. Tool-room, 3s. 2½d.

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A PLEA FOR DEMOCRACY

Dear Editor,—I feel we ought to have a national daily published by the Government in which every group numbering say twenty in the House of Commons should have the right of a column. A paid editor should be elected, who should be sworn to give all shades of opinion a show in correspondence columns. The distribution agencies can and do crab democratic journals. The distributing agencies and Reuter ought to be under democratic control.

If it were possible to put the reasons for seeking peace before the public more effectively the end of the war would be in sight. The greatest crime in history was the refusal to ascertain Germany's terms after Wilson's first message. And bitterly England will rue it. The Russian Revolution clearly shows (however it may turn out) our folly in allying ourselves with that Power. Once more we put our money on the wrong horse.—Yours truly, A. J. Marriott.

[We fear that there may not be even twenty men in the House of Commons who represent the views that are forcing their way painfully upward from the oppressed hearts of the people. Are there twenty men in the House prepared to vote against the War Credits? Are there twenty men in the House determined to stand out for one vote, and only one vote, for every man and woman? Are there twenty men in the House prepared to say: "If we cannot end this mad War for all our striving, at least we will fight to secure that now, now, without delay, the food supply shall be equally distributed"? Are there twenty Socialists in the House prepared to speak and vote for Socialism in the immediate present? Nay.]

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